(d) whether other Ministries have also been consulted in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the views expressed by each Ministry; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism has taken up the matter with the State Governments and have emphasized on the need for improving connectivity to major tourist centres. They have also been advised to send proposals for such connectivites to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for funding under their scheme of Central Road Fund.

(d) to (f) The Ministry of Tourism has requested the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways for improving connectivity to major tourist centres in the country and have also requested them to consider the stretches of Road connectivity from these spots to the National Highways as a part of National Highways itself. The Planning Commission has allocated funds for improving connectivity from the National Highway/State Highway to the various sites in the cities of Agra and Varanasi. They have also agreed to help in improving connectivity to other important destinations. The Ministry of Culture has also taken up the matter with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for developing connectivity to the monuments under their control.

Development of tourism industry in Orissa under "Incredible India"

1707. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa has good potential for tourism, but it lacks infrastructure;

(b) whether the State has nine major beaches, a potential for tourist hubs, but on account of lack of infrastructure, it drives away the tourists; and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of the Centre under "Incredible India" campaign to help the State to develop its tourism industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/ UTs for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation with the State concerned every year. The schemes are: Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product Infrastructure and Destination Development and Large Revenue Generating Projects.

The details of financial assistance sanctioned during the last three years of the Tenth Plan to the State of Orissa are as under:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Amount sanctioned
	2002-03	
1.	Rural Tourist Project at Raghurajpur (Distt. Puri)	50.00
2.	Computerization of Offices	7.50
	2003-04	
1.	Development of Puri as a Tourist destination	394.55
	2004-05	
1.	Development of Peace Park and Amphitheater at Dhauli (Distt. Khurda)	488.51
2.	Development of facilities at Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri and Langudi under Buddhist Circuit	740.66
3.	Rural Tourism Development of Village Pipli (Distt. Puri) (Hardware)	50.00
4.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Rural Tourism Project at Village Pipli (Distt. Puri) (Software)	20.00
5.	Rural Tourism Development of Village Raghurajpur (Distt. Puri) (Software)	22.00

(c) Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a whole through various themes in its "Incredible India" campaigns which also includes the State of Orissa.

Ashoka Hotel running without Completion Certificate

1708. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ITDC flagship hotel, 'Ashoka' is running without a completion certificate for the last 37 years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the NDMC has been criticized for this violation in the recent audit report; and

(c) what action has been taken or proposed to be taken against the officer responsible for it, indicating the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir. The first Completion Certificate was issued by the NDMC *vide* its Resolution No. 70, dated 19.8.1966 based on the Building Scheme No. 102, dated 26.7.1966.

(b) Ministry of Tourism and ITDC are not aware of any such report.

(c) Does not arise.

Schemes for promotion of tourism

1709. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated new schemes to promote tourism during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;